

“An Episode of War” by Stephen Crane

“Willie Has Gone to the War” words by George Cooper, music by Stephen Foster

Reading Strategy: Recognize Historical Details

Your knowledge of the historical time period of a selection can help you make the most of a reading experience. Consider the historical, social, and political climate surrounding a piece of writing as part of its setting and context. For example, in “An Episode of War,” the author writes, “His lips pursed as he drew with his sword various crevices in the heap . . .” The detail about the sword helps you to realize that the story did not happen recently—it happened in a time when swords were weapons of war.

Pay careful attention to **historical details** that make the story more vivid and meaningful.

DIRECTIONS: Record some of your historical knowledge about the following issues during the American Civil War. Then write how the details affect your reading of the selections.

Issues	Historical Knowledge	Affect on Reading
1. War tactics		
2. Medicine		
3. Communication		
4. Transportation		